AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A semiconductor laser device comprising:

a laser emission part for emitting a laser beam;

[[a]] laser reception parts for receiving a backward beam of the laser beam reflected by an irradiation object;

a polarization hologram for transmitting the laser beam directed from the laser emission part to the irradiation object as a forward beam without diffracting the laser beam, and diffracting [[a]] the backward beam of the laser beam, which is a return beam of the forward beam that has been reflected by the irradiation object, and dividing the backward beam into plural holographic diffracted beams so that the holographic diffracted beams are ~~backward beam is~~ deflected from a direction directed toward the laser emission part and further directed toward the laser reception parts; [[and]]

a three-beam diffraction grating for dividing [[a]] one of the holographic diffracted beams, which result ~~results~~ from the diffraction of the backward beam by the polarization hologram, into three beams and for letting the three beams incident on the laser reception part; and

wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is not located in a forward path of the forward beam between the laser emission part and the polarization hologram, and wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is located only in a backward path of one of the holographic diffracted beams.

2. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 1, wherein the polarization hologram and the three-beam diffraction grating are integrated together.

3. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 1, wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is so positioned that the forward beam directed from the laser emission part toward the irradiation object is inhibited from being incident on the three-beam diffraction grating.

4. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 1, wherein the laser reception part includes a first photoreception part for receiving a +1st-order diffracted beam derived from the polarization hologram, and a second photoreception part for receiving a -1st-order diffracted beam derived from the polarization hologram.

5. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 1, wherein the three-beam diffraction grating varies in diffraction efficiency depending on positions in a grating-extension direction along which the grating extends.

6. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 5, wherein in the three-beam diffraction grating, a land width to groove width ratio of land portions and groove portions which constitute the grating continuously varies along the grating-extension direction.

7. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 5, wherein in the three-beam diffraction grating, groove depth of the grating continuously varies along the grating-extension direction.

8. (Original) The semiconductor laser device according to claim 5, wherein in the three-beam diffraction grating, groove depth of the grating varies stepwise along the grating-extension direction.

9. (Currently amended) An optical pickup device comprising:

a laser emission part for outputting a laser beam;

[[a]] laser reception parts for receiving a backward beam of the laser beam reflected by an optical disk;

a polarization hologram for transmitting the laser beam directed from the laser emission part to the optical disk as a forward beam without diffracting the laser beam, and diffracting the [[a]] backward beam of the laser beam, which is a return beam of the forward beam that has been reflected by the optical disk, and dividing the backward beam into plural holographic diffracted beams so that the holographic diffracted beams are ~~backward beam is~~ deflected from a direction directed toward the laser emission part and further directed toward the laser reception parts;

a 1/4 wave plate corresponding to a wavelength of the laser beam

an objective lens for focusing the laser beam onto the optical disk; [[and]]

a three-beam diffraction grating for dividing one of the [[a]] holographic diffracted beams, which results from the diffraction of the backward beam by the polarization hologram, into three beams and for letting the three beams incident on the laser reception part;

wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is not located in a forward path of the forward beam between the laser emission part and the polarization hologram; and

wherein the three-beam diffraction grated is located in a backward path of only one of the holographic diffracted beams.

10. (New) The semiconductor laser device of claim 1, wherein no portion of the three-beam diffraction grating overlaps the center of the polarization hologram when viewed from above or below.

11. (New) A semiconductor laser device comprising:

a laser emission part for emitting a laser beam;

laser reception parts for receiving a backward beam of the laser beam reflected by an irradiation object;

a hologram for transmitting the laser beam directed from the laser emission part to the irradiation object as a forward beam without diffracting the laser beam, and diffracting the backward beam of the laser beam, which is a return beam of the forward beam that has been reflected by the irradiation object, and dividing the backward beam into plural holographic diffracted beams so that the holographic diffracted beams are deflected from a direction directed toward the laser emission part and further directed toward the laser reception parts;

a three-beam diffraction grating for dividing one of the holographic diffracted beams, which result from the diffraction of the backward beam by the hologram, into three beams and for letting the three beams incident on the laser reception part; and

wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is not located in a forward path of the forward beam between the laser emission part and the hologram, and wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is located only in a backward path of one of the holographic diffracted beams.

12. (New) An optical pickup device comprising:

a laser emission part for outputting a laser beam;

laser reception parts for receiving a backward beam of the laser beam reflected by an optical disk;

a hologram for transmitting the laser beam directed from the laser emission part to the optical disk as a forward beam without diffracting the laser beam, and diffracting the backward beam of the laser beam, which is a return beam of the forward beam that has been reflected by the optical disk, and dividing the backward beam into plural holographic diffracted beams so that the holographic diffracted beams are deflected from a direction directed toward the laser emission part and further directed toward the laser reception parts;

a 1/4 wave plate corresponding to a wavelength of the laser beam

an objective lens for focusing the laser beam onto the optical disk;

a three-beam diffraction grating for dividing one of the holographic diffracted beams, which results from the diffraction of the backward beam by the hologram, into three beams and for letting the three beams incident on the laser reception part(s);

wherein the three-beam diffraction grating is not located in a forward path of the forward beam between the laser emission part and the hologram; and

wherein the three-beam diffraction grated is located in a backward path of only one of the holographic diffracted beams.

13. (New) The semiconductor laser device of claim 11, wherein no portion of the three-beam diffraction grating overlaps the center of the hologram when viewed from above or below.